

INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM

NHDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: CON0178

Name, Location, Ownership

1. Historic name: Farnum Farm-State Prison Farm
2. District or area: n/a
3. Street and number: 314 North State St.
4. City or town: Concord
5. County: Merrimack
6. Current owner: State of NH

Function or Use

7. Current use(s): probation/parole office/agricultural
8. Historic use(s): residential/agricultural

Architectural Information

9. Style/type: Federal/Greek Revival
10. Architect/builder: Unknown
11. Source: _____
12. Construction date: 1845
13. Source: Village of W. Concord: 92
14. Alterations, with dates: bay window & corbeled chimneys (ca. 1860s); front door (late 20th c.); various rear additions
15. Moved? no ☒ yes ☐ date: _____

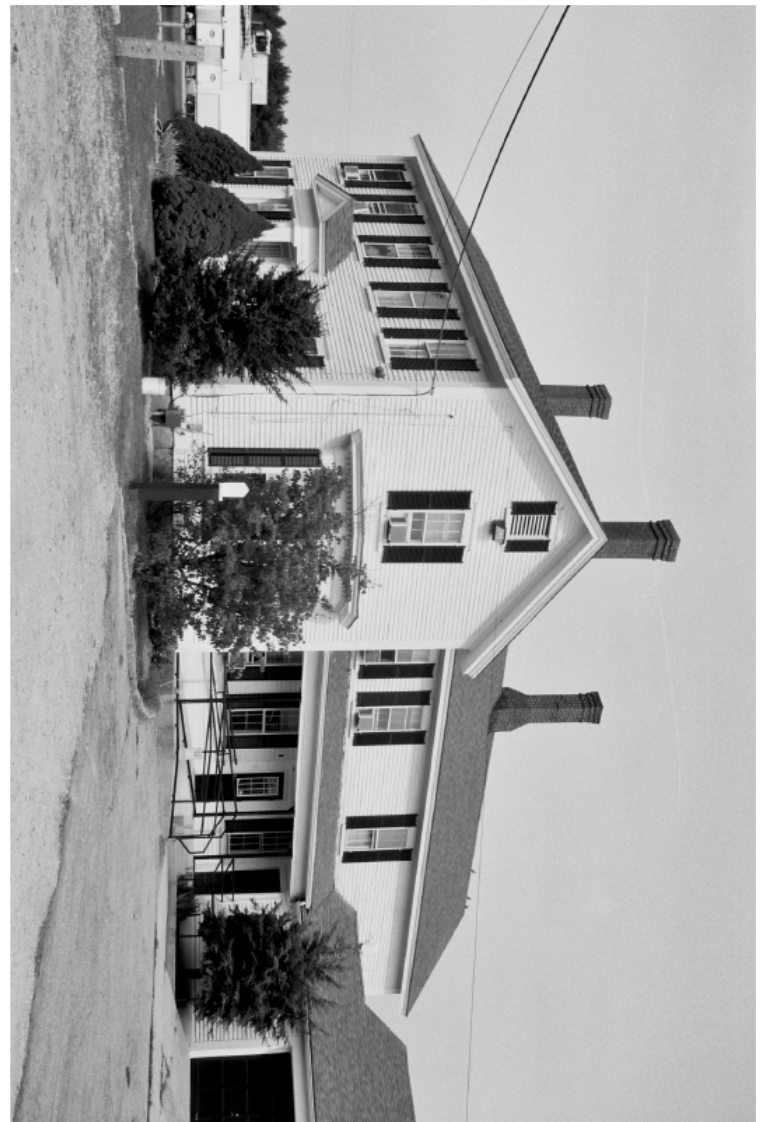
Exterior Features

16. Foundation: granite block
17. Cladding: clapboard
18. Roof material: asphalt shingles
19. Chimney material: brick
20. Type of roof: gable
21. Chimney location: twin: behind ridge; ell ridge
22. Number of stories: 2½
23. Entry location: center
24. Windows: 6/6

Replacement? no ☒ yes ☐ date: _____

Site Features

25. Setting: major commercial & residential road
26. Outbuildings: shed, barn, milking parlor, milk house, & misc. 19th & 20th c. sheds
27. Landscape features: extensive fields to rear; RR cattle underpasses



Description: Front (west) and side elevation of main house and ell

35. Photo #1 36. Date Fall 2008

37. Roll #5 Frame #12A Direction: NE

38. Negative stored at: NHDHR

28. Acreage: approx. 400 acres
29. Tax map/parcel: 70A-1-5 (primary lot) + rear fields
30. UTM reference: 19.292050 / 4789540
31. USGS quadrangle and scale: Concord, 1:24000

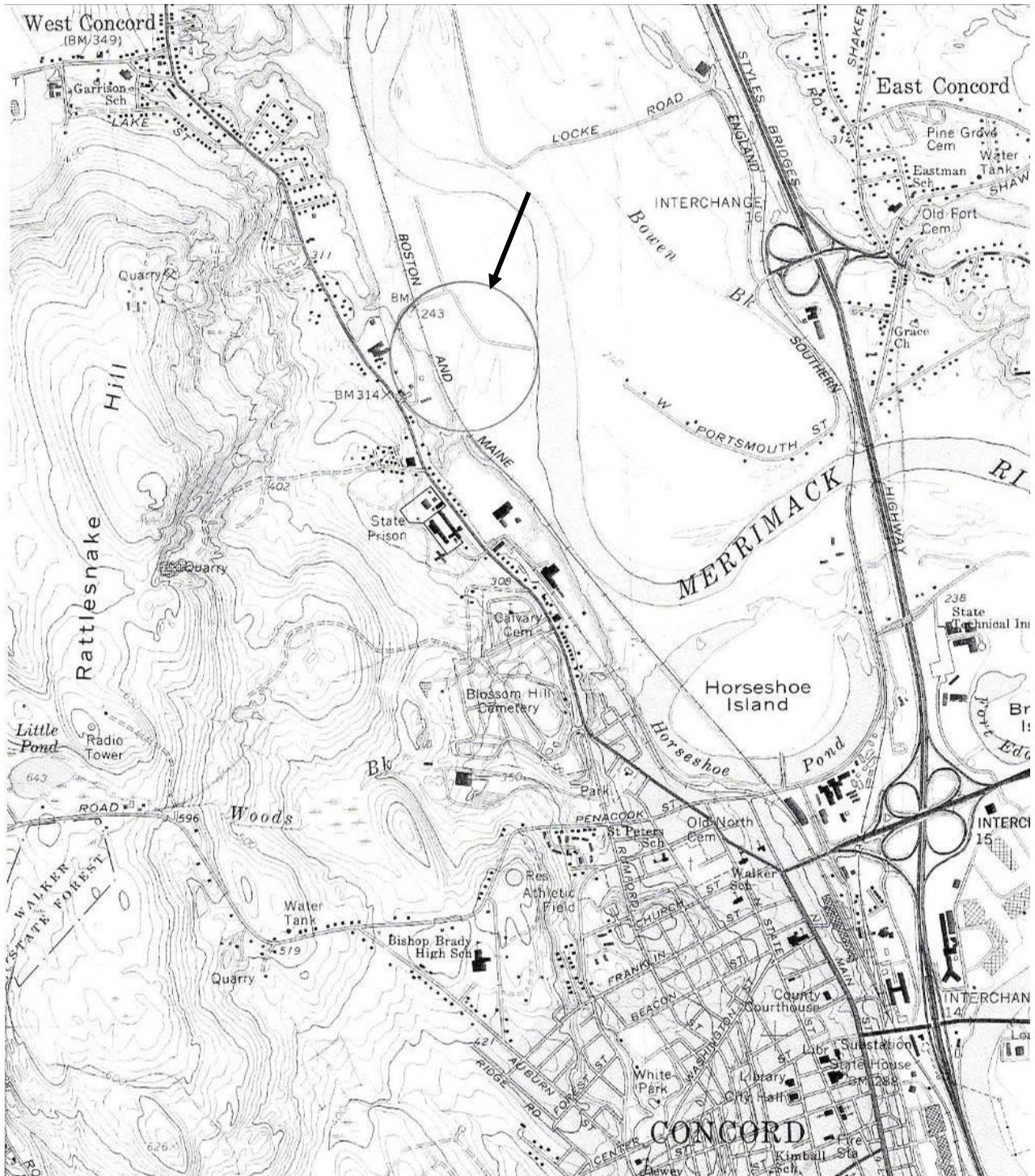
Form prepared by

32. Name: Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, Preservation Consultant
33. Organization: for Concord Heritage Commission
34. Date of survey: Fall 2008

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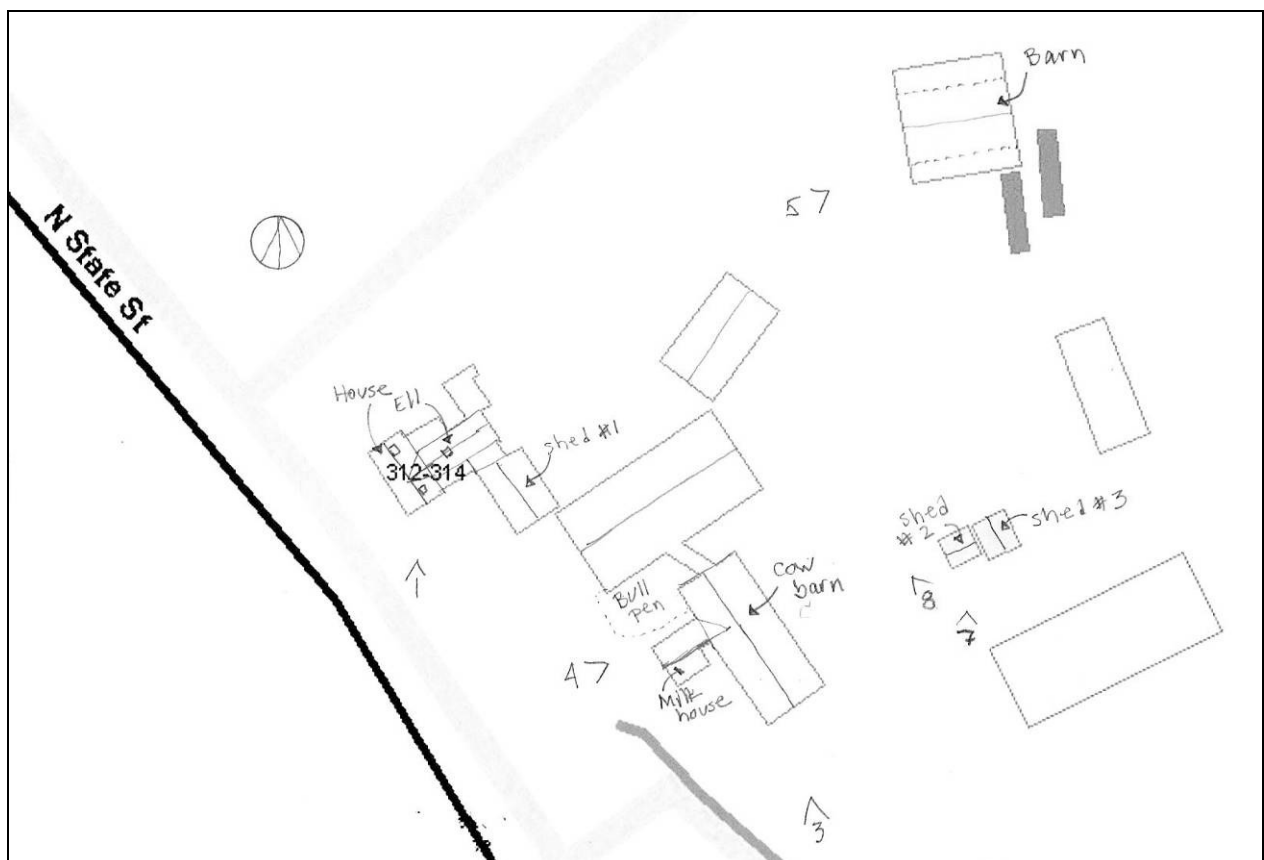
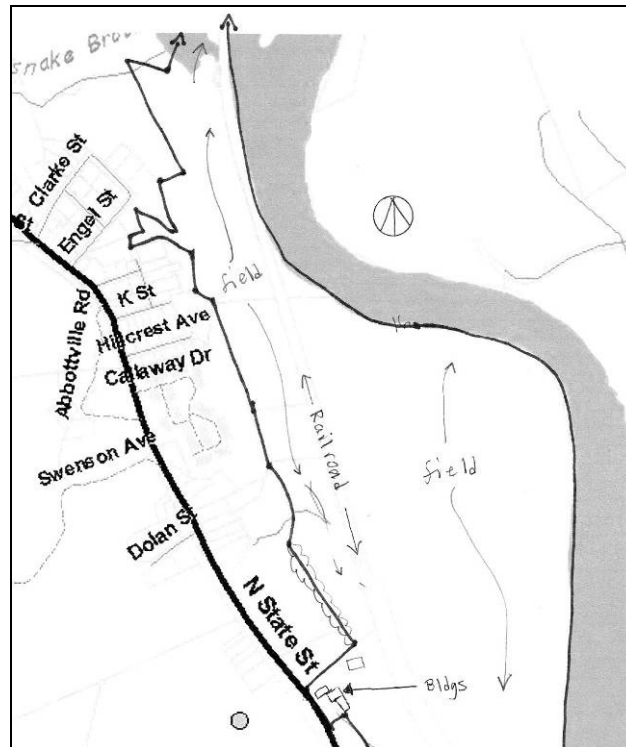
39. LOCATION MAP: USGS map, not to scale



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40. PROPERTY MAP:



INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM**NHDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: CON****Methods and Purpose**

This form was completed as part of a survey of rural agricultural properties within the City of Concord, a project sponsored by the Heritage Commission. The overall purpose of the project was to raise public awareness of the city's rich agricultural legacy through a combination of identification, education, public policy and preservation planning tools.

Due to limited resources, the survey focused on barns and outbuildings that met all of the following criteria: (1) were sited on at least 10 acres of land; (2) they were located in a fairly rural area and not within the city center or an outlying village; (3) the surrounding land retained historic landscape features, such as open fields, pasture, and stone walls; (4) the outbuildings retained a high level of integrity from their agricultural era. None of the barns on the St. Paul's School campus were included. In addition, a few landmark barns, even if on a small lot, were included. Approximately 45 properties were included in the survey. Whenever possible, an interior inspection of the buildings was undertaken.

The survey was conducted at the reconnaissance-level. Historic background information was acquired from questionnaires sent to each property owner, personal interviews, a review of historic maps, and limited research in local histories. Certainly, additional research data on farms is available from population and, in particular, agricultural census records, and owners are encouraged to pursue those to add to this data base.

When properties were part of a larger, agricultural district, the form locates them as such, and a separate form documenting that historic agricultural neighborhood was prepared.

41. Historical Background and Role in the Town or City's Development:

This was one of several farms established by members of the Farnum family, early settlers in West Concord. According to the *Village of West Concord*, the house was erected by Benjamin Farnum in 1845. In 1892, it was still owned by B. Farnum. At that time, it was the southernmost of four farms owned by the Farnum family. (Other members of the family also established farms at 9 and 11 West Parish Road (see CON0193 and CON0194). Today, as this section of North State Street has become a busy, largely commercial road, this farm is the sole property to reflect the area's agricultural heritage.

On August 6, 1937 Charles Farnum sold the farm to the New Hampshire State Prison, which has maintained it in active agricultural use ever since, adding various buildings to serve its needs. Situated a short distance to the north from the prison, it consisted of 350 acres in 1937, of which 35 was under cultivation. The prison started with fourteen Holstein heifers and one bull, three work horses and twenty-five pigs. In 1941, it purchased the 19th century barn on the site (moved from elsewhere) to house its expanding operations. In 1966, it acquired 75 acres east of Engel and Clarke Streets. By 1976, the farm had 125 cattle and approximately 15 acres in vegetable cultivation.¹ From the outset, inmates have provided the labor, primarily as part of the prison's regime to include structured work in its rehabilitation programs, but also to supplement its food.

¹ *Village of West Concord*: 92.

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Photographed mid-20th century. *From Amsden, A Capital for New Hampshire, Chapter 15, opposite page 2.*

42. Applicable NHDHR Historic Contexts:

- 51. Mixed agriculture and the family farm, 1630-present.
- 109. State government, 1680-present.

43. Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation:

This farm complex consists of a mid-19th c. farmhouse with attached shed and a somewhat later barn, as well as a number of agricultural and storage outbuildings erected after it came into the possession of the State Prison system in 1937, including a ca. late 1930s milking parlor, milk house and bullpen. Extensive open fields dotted with large box elders and divided by rows of pines lie behind (east of) the buildings, extending beyond the tracks of the former Northern Railroad to the Merrimack River. Under state ownership, the fields have been used for hay, corn and vegetables. At least two wagon underpasses allow vehicles and animals to cross under the railroad: the southern one is concrete, but the northern one is made of split granite blocks and is original to the railroad construction in the 1840s.

Another surviving 19th century landscape feature is a row of granite posts along the road frontage.

Historical resources:

House (1845): The former farmhouse is a 2 ½ story, 5x1 bay, twin-chimney, vernacular Federal style building with a 2 ½ story ell. It rests on a granite block foundation. Primary exterior features include a pedimented entry portico with reeded posts and pilasters, corbeled chimneys on the main house and ell, raking eaves, original 6/6 window sash and early louvered blinds, and flat casings with molded caps. The interior retains an original front staircase, and folding window shutters and fireplace in the southwest room on the first floor. Of particular interest is the summer kitchen in the ell, with a fireplace, set tub and a large (approx. 6' x 3'), granite tub.

Shed #1 (ca. 1845): Attached to the ell and extending toward the south is a 1 ½ story timber-frame shed with up/down saw marks and a common-rafter roof. According to the *Village of West Concord* (p. 92), the building was once a cider mill.

Cow barn (ca. late 1930s): This is one of two mid-20th c. cow barns in Concord built by the State of New Hampshire (the other was built for the State Hospital and stands on White Farm at 144 Clinton Street: see CON0166). It is a lengthy structure faced with rusticated concrete block. The gable roof sports a row of metal ventilators. Walls are punctured with small windows with new sash. According to David Morrill, owner of Morrill Farm in Penacook, the interior was fitted out with metal stanchions. The building now houses the State Prison home industries and hobby craft retail shop.

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Milk House (ca. late 1930s): Built contemporaneously with the milking parlor and attached to its east wall to face toward the road, this is also faced with rusticated concrete block.

Bull Pen (ca. late 1930s): This is a curved pen enclosed by a low, stepped stone wall on the west, the milk house on the south, the milking parlor on the east and a ca. 1960s shed on the north.

Sheds #2 (ca. mid-20th c.) & #3 (ca. late 19th c.): These two sheds stand close together. Shed #2 is a two-bay, side-gabled structure currently used for equipment and wood storage. Shed #3 is a timber-frame structure with a newly framed roof, granite steps and board & batten exterior siding.

Barn (ca. 1860-80s; moved here in 1941): The barn is a square-rule, timber-frame, Queen-truss structure with a principal and common rafter roof. All framing members are circular sawn. The gable front is centered on the west elevation. The barn is sided in clapboards and trimmed with corner boards. Eaves are boxed, with cornice returns. The interior has hay mows extending the length of both sides, served by a grain elevator. One-story, shed-roof extensions are found on each side wall of the barn. Openings with sliding doors in the main barn hay mows allow hay to be dropped down into the extensions, where calves were likely housed. According to *Village of West Concord* (p. 92), the barn was moved in 1941 to provide additional space for the state prison's livestock and hay storage.

At least four additional shop or equipment sheds are scattered around the historic outbuildings, behind the milking parlor. Most of them are constructed of concrete block and all post-date 1960.

46. Statement of Integrity:

As the sole surviving farm on North State Street, an area once dotted with agricultural properties taking full advantage of the alluvial floodplains to the rear (east), the State Prison Farm retains a high degree of integrity. It retains the main house, ell and attached shed from its original family (Farnum), as well as important outbuildings from the State Prison period. The extensive surrounding fields remain in active use and have been largely historically associated with the property for many years.

48. Bibliography and/or References:

Amsden, Grace P., *A Capital for New Hampshire*. Unpublished manuscript in 3 vols., written between 1930 and 1960.

Bouton, Nathaniel, *The History of Concord*. Concord: Benning W. Sanborn, 1856.

City of Concord Directories, 1812 -1970.

Lyford, James O., ed., *History of Concord, NH*. Concord: Rumford Press, 1903, 2 vols.

The Village of West Concord, New Hampshire. West Concord Villagers, 1976.

Maps, Atlases, Plans and Views

1858 *Map of Merrimack County*. Surveyed by H. E Walling, New York. Published by Smith and Peavey.

1892 *Town and County Atlas of the State of New Hampshire*. Compiled by D. H. Hurd and Co., Boston.

2006 *Aerial Maps*. City of Concord.

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Surveyor's Evaluation

NR listed: individual ☐
 within district ☐
 Integrity: yes ☒
 no ☐

NR eligible:
 individual ☐
 within district ☐
 not eligible ☐
 more info needed ☐

NR Criteria: A ☐
 B ☐
 C ☐
 D ☐
 E ☐

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Photo 2 description: Cellar of house, showing original summer kitchen in ell
Roll: 6 Frame: 2 Direction: NW



Photo 3 description: Cow barn erected by State Prison Farm
Roll: 8 Frame: 6 Direction: NE

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Photo 4 description: Milk house (right), bullpen & milking parlor (rear)
Roll: 8 Frame: 7 Direction: E



Photo 5 description: Barn (ca. 1860-80s)
Roll: 6 Frame: 7 Direction: E

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Photo 6 description: Detail of ca. 1860-80s barn, showing square rule frame and rafter roof
Roll: 6 Frame: 6 Direction: N



Photo 7 description: Sheds #2 & 3
Roll: 6 Frame: 4 Direction: NE

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Photo 8 description: post-1960 sheds erected by State Prison

Roll: 6 Frame: 3 Direction: N



Photo 9 description: Granite railroad underpass (1840s)

Roll: 6 Frame: 8 Direction: E